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WILL RESIST RUSSIA

Great Britain Preparing to Mass Troops at Esquimault.

CANADIAN PACIFIC NOTIFIED

Preparations Made to Handle 10,000 Troops at Short Notice.

CHICAGO, December 30 .- A special from Minneapolis says: Advices from Ottawa indicate that the British government is preparing to actively resist Russian occupation of Port Arthur and Russian influence in Corea; also that the co-operation of the Japanese fleet with that of Great Britain is a well-settled fact.

Information has been received from an inside source that the Ottawa government, thirty days ago, notified the Canadian Paeific officials to be in readiness for the immediate transportation from Montreal to Vancouver and Esquimault of 3,500 men, the contingent consisting of engineers, gunners and deck officers.

Ready to Transport Troops.

According to information at hand, the read has prepared for handling 10,000 men, five trains being held in readiness for this

The officers included in the first contingent are intended to reinforce the Japanese fleet, which is said to be very short in eng.neering talent and deficient in gunnery. The dispatch adds that a secret agreement has been concluded between Great Britain and Japan, by the terms of which the Rus-sian pretensions in Cerea are to be overcome and Russian aggrandizement in Asia permanently checked.

Capt. Rolfe's Views.

Capt. Ronald Rolfe, R. N. (retired), on inspection service, just returned from the west, and on his way to England via New York, says that, in his opinion, the force above referred to is intended to increase the efficiency of the forts at Esquimault and relieve the crew of the North Pacific

He declines to discuss the probability of an Anglo-Russian imbroglio, but asserts that in case of actual hostilities the Brit-ish Asiatic squadron is of sufficient strength ish Asiatic squadron is of sufficient strength to enforce any demands Great Britain may have to make. He denies that there is any probability of any Anglo—Japanese alltance, remarking that England's combining with a fourth-rate power like Japan, would be a confession of weakness that does not ex-

Not to Reinforce Japanese.

Captain Rolfe asserts with positiveness that the contingent to be sent west is not for Japanese reinforcement, but rather to be used as a reserve for the fleets in operation should a naval war result from the political complications in the orient.

Requisition for Merchant Vessels.

LONDON, December 39.-The officials the Canadian Pacific raffroad here say they have no knowledge of the British admiralty having requisitioned three of the empress' steamships belonging to that com-pany, as reported in a special dispatch from Shanghai, and they believe the statement

to be without foundation. Seizure of Hai-Nan Discredited.

PARIS, December 30.-The officials of the French ministry of marine regard the report of the occupation of the Island of Hai-Nan, off the south coast of China, by the French fleet in those waters, as being an invention.

During the day there was issued a semiofficial contradiction of the report that the French flag had been hoisted over the Is-

For Cuban Sufferers. Evening Star Newspaper Company.. \$100.00

Total\$152.00

WEYLER IN HIS OWN DEFENSE.

Peels That He is Honored by President McKinley's Criticism.

MADRID, December 30.-Gen. Weyler, the former captain-general of Cuba, in his memorial to the queen regent on the subject of President McKinley's message to Congress, says he is honored by the attacks made upon him, and that his conduct as governor-general was that of a soldier animated by honor and patriotism. Such attacks, therefore, Gen. Weyler adds, will do him no harm, as they are aimed at him, he asserts, simply because he has done his duty. Nevertheless, "since the message contained insulting observations on the Spanish troops in Cuba," he believed it to be his duty to address a protest to the crown. Gen. Weyler affirms that the so-called pacificos whom he concentrated in the fortified districts he concentrated in the fortified dis were the prime abettors of the rebelli The protest of the general is couched in courteous language.

FITZSIMMONS NAMES HIS TERMS. Will Fight Corbett After Latter

Whips Peter Maher. NEW YORK, December 39. - Torr O'Rourke has wired to the Associated Press from Fort Wayne, Ind., as follows: "Julian and Fitzsimmons have named Joe Wolcott at the middle-weight limit to meet McCoy, and Peter Maher to meet Corbett. If McCoy and Corbett win from Wolcott and Maher Fitzsimmons will meet both of them afterward. These are the only cenditions Fitzsimmons will make with McCoy and Corbett."

CHOPPED HIS WIFE TO DEATH. Brutal Butchery of a Young Colored

Woman. KANSAS CITY, Mo., December 30 .- Nettle Johnson, a young colored woman, was chopped to death with a hatchet last night in an alley near 10th and Wyandotte streets. Her husband was the murderer. Each of the eight blows upon her head split the skull, and her hands were literally chopped to pieces. Near by stood a horse and express wagon, in which there were ropes tied to a heavy stone.

It had evidently been the intention of the murderer to throw his victim into the river, but the woman's outery had pre-

vented this being done. Johnson is still at

INSURGENTS AT ESPERANZA.

Fire Volleys Into Houses - Mayor's Daughter is Hit. HAVANA, December 30 .- According to a report from Spanish sources at Esperanza, province of Santa Clara, a party of insurgents fired into that town on Saturday night. Bullets struck a number of residences, and one bullet went through the sleeve of Senorita Valdes, daughter of the mayor of the town.

Secretary Sherman Notified That \$800 Has Been Subscribed.

It Will Be Invested in Condensed Milk-Ward Line Steamers Will Carry Supplies Free.

The Secretary of State has received a elegram from the Anaconda Standard of Anaconda, Mont., through Senator Mantle saying that he could draw on the National Park Bank of New York city for \$800, the SOME RUMORS DENIED sum already subscribed and paid in by citi- THE NEW YORK JUDGESHIP zens of Montana for the relief of Cuban sufferers. More money is promised from the same source January 1. All of the money previously received at the State Department, amounting to \$5,005, has been sent to Consul General Lee for immediate use in alleviating prevailing distress.

Invested in Condensed Milk. Mr. Roose, the dispatch agent of the Department of State at New York city, was this morning directed by the Secretary of State to draw the \$800 contributed by the His calls are of the most formal nature. people of Montana to the Cuban relief fund and to invest the money in the purchase of formed, will be shipped to Gen. Lee at Havana by the Ward line of steamers, free of vana by the ward line of steamers, free of charge. The purchase of condensed milk is ordered in response to a suggestion by Consul General Lee that it is specially de-sired for the benefit of invalids and chil-

Will Carry Supplies Free. Assistant Secretary Day telegraphed the superintendent of the Ward line of steamers at New York, inquiring if the Depart-

ment of State could announce that that line ment of State could announce that that line would convey supplies to Cuba for the relief of suffering people, free of charge. The superintendent promptly responded, as follows: "Will be pleased to accept supplies for Cuban sufferers, free of cost. Presume they will be consigned to Gen. Lee." In reply he was informed that all supplies would be consigned to Gen. Lee.

CRITICISED THE COURT.

Major Gen. Merritt's Comment on Recent Findings.

Maj. Gen. Merritt commanding the Department of the East, has found it necessary to admonish the court-martial before which was tried Private John D. Donovan, Company H, 13th Infantry, found guilty and sentenced to three months' hard labor and to pay a fine of \$10 on conviction of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

"In this case," says Gen. Merritt, in his review, "the prisoner, among other things was charged under the twenty-first article of war with 'having received a lawful command from his superior officer, Capt. J. C.

mand from his superior officer, Capt. J. C. Chance, 13th Infantry, officer of the day, to halt and be recognized, did wilfully disobey the same by running away."

"The court having found the prisoner guilty of the specification and not guilty of violation of the twenty-first article of war, but guilty of 'conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline,' the record of the proceedings was returned to the ord of the proceedings was returned to the court for reconsideration of its findings in this respect, calling attention to the fact that the specification sustained the original that a substitution of the general article for the specific article could only be resorted to in cases where the material al-legation in the specification as found, did not sustain the charge as laid. "Upon reconsideration the court excepted

obey' and adhered to its former findings upon the charge. In the opinion of the reviewing authority the evidence adduced es-tablishes the specification as originally found. The wilful disobedience in this case was exhibited by the soldier by simply doing what was required of him. A failure to obey an order under such circumstances is a wilful disobedience, and the court, it the opinion of the reviewing officer, should have so found. Subject to these remarks and in order that the prisoner may not escape well-merited punishment, the sen-tence is approved and will be duly executed at Fort Niagara, N. Y."

ELECTRICITY IN THE POST OFFICE.

The Lowest Bid for Installing the Plant Was \$41,000.

The Treasury Department is engaged this afternoon in opening proposals for installing an electric and power plant in the new city post office. There are thirty or forty bidders, and each bid frequently contains a number of separate proposals. Of the bids already opened the lowest for installing the complete plant is \$41,000. The bids range from that to \$52,000. Royce & Marean are among the local bidders. It will be some time before the contrac

is awarded, owing to the multiplicity and complicity of the bids. The shortness of funds won't delay awarding the contract, as there is sufficient money on hand to go ahead with that.

NAVAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

Secretary Long Favors Legislation Making Them More Effective.

The naval authorities have long regarded the provisions of existing laws relating to the administration of justice as defective in that naval courts-martial are not empowered to secure the attendance and testimony of civilian witnesses. It often happens that important facts are exclusively known by civilians and their testimony is required before almost every important naval court-martial. It rarely happens that witnesses that can avoid so doing willing to appear in such cases.

Secretary Long says from an examination of legislation on this subject it does

not appear by any means clear that Con-gress intended to leave courts-martial in such a position. He has submitted to the House naval committee a draft*of a bill to remedy these evils without giving the naval courts undue authority. The first section involves only an extension to the judge advocate of naval courts-martial and courts of inquiry of power now possessed by judges advocate of army courts. section has been drawn in conformity with the similar design to meet precisely the same difficulty which had arisen in the British service, providing for certification for contempt, if necessary, to the nearest United States court for punishment.

Personal Mention.

Capt. James Fornance, 12th Infantry, is at the Ebbitt on leave. First Lieut. James Brown registered at the War Department this morning. He is in the city on leave of absence. Arthur Bovee, a student at Pennington

Seminary, in New Jersey, is spending his boliday vacation with his parents. Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Bovee. It will be pleasing to his many friends to know that he stood at the head of his class for the first term. Mr. Francis B. Loomis, United States minister to Venezuela, is in the city on of-ficial business, and is at the Cochran. Mr. Lcomis expects to return to his post next

Mr. John L. Nolen of Nashville, Tenn., who has been in the city for the past few days, stopping at the Raleigh, returned to his home last evening. its home last evening. Rev. J. J. Dillon of St. Joseph's Catholic Church has gone to Frostburg, Md., on a short vacation.

Among the Harvard students who are in the city is Mr. A. Robeson Sargent of Brookline, Mass, visiting Mrs. C. S. Whit-

MONTANA'S GIFT TO CUBA AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Many Tourists Call at the Executive Mansion.

SENATOR TELLER INTRODUCES A FRIEND

Efforts in Behalf of Another Illinois

Senator Teller of Colorado seldom visits the White House, and then the visits are simply for the purpose of introducing constituents. The silver senator makes no recommendations and asks for nothing. His personal relations with President Mc-Kinley are cordial and pleasant, but because his visits might be misinterpreted, he rarely goes to the Executive Mansion. Senator Teller was at the White House teday, remaining just long enough to usher condensed milk, which, he is further in- a friend in and introduce him. The senator aid that he had not spoken to the President on the subject of the nomination of Charles Page Bryan as minister to China. "I have nothing to do with whom the President nominates to a position," said Senator Teller. "My business is to vote after the nomination is made. My objections to Mr. Bryan are that he is too inexerienced and too little acquainted with Eplomatic affairs at this juncture to serve this country properly in China. The indi-cations now are that China is to be divided between the European nations. Our interests will be greater than now seems, and our minister there should be a man who can cope with the trained diplomats of the other countries."

Favors Hawaiian Annexation.

Senator Teller is an ardent advocate of the annexation of Hawaii to this country. "The islands should be annexed without delay," he said to a Star reporter who talked with him on the subject. "It would be a great blunder not to do so. I see that there is now some chance of the comple-tion of the Nicaraguan canal. This makes should belong to this country and should become our property without delay. As a matter of fact, it has been the intention of the United States for years to annex Hawail. From 1820 to this day we have al-ways insisted that no other country should have the Islands. During President Pierce's administration the islands would have been annexed but for the death of the king. The old king had made a deed of the islands to one king had made a deed of the islands of this country, and Secretary of State Marcy, one of the greatest of democratic statesmen, was preparing to take steps to annex the islands. The old king died, and the new king was opposed to annexation. Have waii is now offered to us, and we must take waii is now offered to us, and we must take it or permit some other country to step in."

Senator Teller said that there were several forms of government suitable for the islands at this time. The territorial form is a good one, he said. "I lived under a territorial government six years," the senator said. "Hawaii will be only fifteen minutes from Washington when a cable line is built and that will not be far away. If the wilt and that will not be far away. If the territorial form wouldn't suit, the country could be attached to California or Oregon as a county. It is said that California wouldn't allow this, but I think there are states which would permit it without re-

The general impression around the White House is that the Senate will not lose much time in getting down to consideration of the annexation treaty. A number of senators who are strong advocates of annexa-tion have recently seen and talked with the President. What has been determined en has not leaked out, but the probability is that there will be little delay in push-

ing matters after the middle of next week. Some Political Visitors.

Senators Cullom and Mason lose no opportunity to land a good place for Illinois constituents. They have had opportunity to talk often with the President recently and have taken advantage of it. They were at the White House today talking the outlook for Illinois people. State Senator Cook of Lake county wants a good place, and the two senators are doing all they can to get it for him. They urge his appointment as a member of the Missisppi river commission or as commissioner

of navigation.

Senators Cullom and Mason have landed more good places for constituents than any other two senators. It is thought that the quota for their state is nearly full, but they hammer away, and when they see a posi-tion likely to need filling they put up a

Senators McBride, Geer and Hale, Representatives Johnson of Indiana, Hitt, Bing ham, Tongue, Newlands and Graffenreld were in the list of visitors of the day.

The New York Judgeship.

Senator Platt of New York is expected here soon to have a talk with the President regarding the nomination of a federal judge to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Tenny. There is considerable interest in what the senator may do. When Judge Tenny was appointed, a few months ago, the candidate of Senator Platt was John Allen, who is a close friend of ex-Secretary Tracy, and the latter desires to see something done for Mr. Allen. The President, however, declined to appoint Mr. Allen and gave the place to Judge Tenny. Mr. Ailen is still said to hold Senator Platt to his former recommendation, but it is not known what the senator will say when the time comes. He may feel that he is now released. The most strongly backed man in the field is Representative Fischer of Brooklyn. He would like to have the judgeship, and is indorsed by every republican representative from New York. His friends have put before Senator Platt the fact that for fifteen years Mr. Fischer supported him under all circum-stances, sticking to him when his political star didn't look very bright. It would not be surprising, it is said

among New Yorkers, to see Senator Platt finally give his indorsement to Mr. Fischer Crowds in the East Room.

A number of excursions have been run to the city this week, bringing many people. The first place the visitors start for is the White House. All this morning the big east room was filled with sightseers. All of them wanted to see much more than the east room, but the new rules prevented viewing the red, green and blue rooms. "What rooms are those?" asked a party

of young ladies. "The red, blue and green rooms," said the White House attache. "Can't you give us a peep at them?" two The attache explained that these rooms couldn't be visited without orders from Secretary Porter.

JUROR SUED FOR SLANDER.

Litigation Growing Out of the Durrant Murder Trial.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., December 30,-Mrs. Isabella M. Durrant and William Durrant, mother and father of Theodore Durrant, have brought suit for slander against ex-Juror Smyth, and demands 50,000 damages from him. The complaint was sworn ages from him. The complaint was sworn to by Mr. Durrant.

The suit grows out of remarks made by Smyth about Durrant, whom he accused of being a moral monster.

NEW YEAR RECEPTIONS. Lists of Those Receiving or Not Re-

ceiving to Be Published Friday. The Star will publish Friday a list of

day. Persons desiring to arnounce that they will or will not receive can do so without any charge by sending notices to The Star any time prior to 9 o'clock Friday norning. The notices should contain only SOME. OF THE CURRENT GOSSIP the announcement that there will or will ot be a reception and the names and addresses. Every notice must be properly authenticated to insure publication.

WILL CHOOSE NEW OFFICERS.

Reorganization of the Democratic Congressional Committee.

Soon after the reassembling of Congress he democratic congressional committee will be organized. A great deal of politics is involved in their action. There is to be a reorganization. Both Senator Faulkner. the present chairman, and Lawrence Gardner, the secretary of the congressional executive committee, are to be replaced, according to the plans thus far developed. It is understood that Mr. Faulkner does not want to be retained in the position. The reorganization will place the manage-

ment of the campaign more thoroughly in the hands of the most ultra Chicago platform men of the democratic party.

Representative Richardson of Tennessee and Representative Hinrichsen of Illinois are the candidates mentioned to succeed Senator Faulkner. Richardson contemplates being a candidate for Speaker of the Senator Faulkner. Richardson contemplates being a candidate for Speaker of the next House of Representatives if the democrats should carry the next House. It is likely, therefore, that he will not be placed at the head of the committee, where it might be felt that he would have an advantage over other candidates if the democrats were successful in the campaign. It crats were successful in the campaign. It is thought that Hinrichsen will be chosen as he has very powerful support in the party and is one of the most radical silver

men.

It is entirely uncertain who will succeed Mr. Gardner. The one main feature of the reorganization of the committee will be the purpose to hold the democratic party to the Chicago platform in its entirety and to endeavor to keep the silver forces together and to yield nothing from the platform to the gold element of the party.

POST OFFICE THIEVES.

Successful Operations of a Gang in North Carolina.

Post Office Inspector Gregory of North Carolina has issued a circular to the postmasters throughout North Carolina notifying them of a gang of professional post office thieves who have lately made their appearance in North Carolina after having successfully operated in Virginia and West Virginia. The circular sets forth that five men are believed to be in the gang, one of whom, the old man, acts as advance agent. Then follows a description of the men, together with the details of recent robberies in North Carolina. The circular states in conclusion: "Postmasters should look closely after the protection of their offices, con-fer with the local authorities and keep them posted as to these men and other robbers. These men are likely to tap any office at any time, but usually have a careful survey of the ground made, by some one who may play in almost any role, but is showed and observing.

is shrewd and observing.

"In view of the great shrewdness and natural ingenuity of the advance agent of this gang of burglars (notwithstanding his feigned drunkenness, ignorance and variety of roles that he plays) in becoming the oughly familiar with local people, the names, habits, etc., as well as local affairs, surroundings, arrangements, night occu-pants of buildings, etc., a great deal of cau-tion as to exposing this circular will be ecessary to prevent their getting

AFTER CHINESE MARKETS.

Rich Rewards for Those Who Extend Trade Into the Empire.

Some facts of value to business men contemplating an extension of trade into China are afforded by United States Consul Covert, at Lyons, France, in a special report to the State Department.

The consul had before him some of th conclusions reached by the French commission, which has just returned to France from China, where it had been sent to discover means of extending French trade. Because the results of a former commission, through publication, had been of more value to British manufacturers than to rench, the present commission does not publish its report in full, but retains ietailed information for communication prirately to French merchants. Meanwhile orief report has been made to the Lyons concise form the wonderful opportunities for trade extension in populous China, the undeveloped mineral resources of the coun-try and the progress already made by the Germans—now become redoubtable rivals of the English in China.

The consul says that while the great nations of Europe are grasping for Chinese territory, it is probable that the most deconquests may be achieved by peaceful methods. Civilized nations have qual interests in opening the trade of China to the world, and the powers that attempt to accomplish it by war and conno more than strengthen the Chinese wall.

IN PERFECT HEALTH.

Report of Gov. Shepherd's Illness Au-

thoritatively Denied. As stated in The Star of yesterday, the vellow journalism accounts of Governor Alexander Shepherd's serious illness are absolutely devoid of truth. The governor is at Batopilas, Mexico, in his usual good health. The following telegrams received by The Star from Dr. F. D. Merchant, Governor Shepherd's family physician; the Banco Minero, his financial agent at Chihuahua, and Mr. L. H. Stevens, his representative in New York, should finally set at rest the sensational and ill-advised publications in this city which have given the governor's many friends so much uneasi-

BATOPILAS, Mexico, Dec. 29, 1897. The Evening Star, Washington, D. C.: Report entirely false. Governor Shepherd and family are in perfect health. FRANCIS D. MERCHANT.

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico, Dec. 29, 1897.
The Evening Star, Washington, D. C.:
Governor Shepherd enjoying the best of good health.

BANCO MINERO. NEW YORK, Dec. 30, 1897. The Evening Star, Washington, D. C.: Just received the following telegram from Governor Shepherd: "Cannot account for falsehood; am weil, and have no sickness."

L. H. STEVENS.

BIG FIRE AT SAN BERNARDINO.

Valuable History Collections Go Up in the Flames. SAN BERNARDINO, Cal., December 30. The overturning of a lamp for heating glue in Whitney's planing mill yesterday

afternoon started a fire which destroyed property valued at \$100,000, including four residences, an Episcopal church, a skating rink and hardware store.

The national history collections of W. G. Wright, which were known to scientists throughout the country, were destroyed. They were valued at \$20,000.

RAILROAD SALARIES

those receiving or not receiving New Year A Petition Sent by Mr. Grunwell to the Capital Traction Directors.

Mr. Phillips Also Thought Expenses Might Be Reduced.

ACTION OF THE BOARD

The most recent bit of gossip in local railroad circles is that which relates to a petition signed by a number of the stockholders of the Capital Traction road, which was recently sent to the board of directors. It stated that in view of the great expense which the road is subject to, owing to the change in the motive power, and as it would be necessary to pass the next two dividends, that it would be well to reduce the salaries paid to the officers of the road, so that the officers and the shareholders would be placed on the same footing.

It is stated that this petition was circulated by Mr. A. B. Grunwell, who, with his wife, owns about a thousand shares of the stock. Mr. Grunwell is also the vice president of the Metropolitan Railroad Company. The petition was presented at the last meeting of the board of directors, and soon thereafter Mr. Grunwell received a letter, stating that the petition had been received and that the matter referred to was under consideration by the board.

Subject of Free Discussion. A number of those who signed the petition discuss the matter very freely, and it is stated by one of the petitioners that the signers own 15,000 shares, representing \$1,-500,000 of the total capitalization of the road, which is \$12,000,000.

It is also stated by some who signed the paper that not more than 10,000 or 11,000 shares were represented by the signers. Among the signers may be mentioned Mr. Samuel L. Phillips, who was the former president of the Metropolitan road, and is now a member of the building committee.

new a member of the building committee of the Capital traction road.

It is said that an effort was made to obtain the signatures of the New York stockholders to the petition, their holdings being about \$20 money. about \$3,000,000, but they refused, and it is a matter of common talk among some of those who did sign that they would not have attached their signatures to the pa-per had they not been informed that the approval of the New York stockholders would be secured.

It is said by these who are in a position It is said by these who are in a position to form a competent judgment that the small number of signatures obtained to the petition, as well as the small holdings of stock which the names represent, shows very conclusively that the opposition to the present management of the road is now very small, and is much less than it was

at this time last year.

In fact, it is said that the progressive spirit shown by the management, and the manner in which it is carrying on the work of installing the new motive system, has resulted in bringing to its support practically th the entire number of the stock-

An Inquiry Made.

It is said further that before this petition

was received by the board a committee had been appointed for the purpose of making an examination of the management of the affairs of the road, with a view of determining whether any changes could be made with advantage.

It is said that an economical administra-

tion will be one of the features that will especially occupy the attention of the committee. It is expected that this report will be made at the annual meeting of the stockholders, which will be held on the 12th of next month. It is also claimed that the administration is not only intelli-gent, but is carried on with a proper re-gard for economy, and that it is believed when the character and scope of the busi-ness which is conducted by it is considered, that the administrative expenses can be looked upon as being not more than is absolutely required.

It may not be generally known, but it s a fact, that a reduction has been made in the pay of the directors, which of course was done by the action of that body, and that the members receive \$25 a month instead of \$50 per month.

According to a report made a year ago the annual salaries paid to the principal officers of the company are as follows President, \$15,000; vice president, \$7,500 five directors, \$1,500; secretary and treasurer, \$5,000; chief engineer and superintend-

SCOUTS NOT PENSIONABLE.

Assistant Secretary Davis Decides a Claim Adversely.

Mr. Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the interior, teday rendered a decision in an appealed pension case which establishes a precedent in the department, as it decides the question whether men who acted in the capacity of scouts during the war of the rebellion are pensionable. The claim is that of Joseph K. Boone,

scout. On January 18, 1890, claimant filed a declaration for pension, alleging therein that he was employed in the military serice of the United States in the capacity of a scout in the war of the rebellion: that he was employed and sworn into such service about the 11th day of September, 1861, at Brookfield, Mo. (Linn county), and re mained continuously in the military service as such scout thereafter until the close of the war, in the year 1865.

The disability alleged as a basis for pension is disease of the eye, incurred in the service and line of duty. In his decision, Assistant Secretary Da-

"This matter has been referred to the War Department, requesting information touching the service of the claimant, and the record and persion division of that de partment replied that 'the quartermaster general may have a record of this man's service as a scout. He appears to have been employed solely as such." "Upon a like request being preferred to

the office of the quartermaster general, that office, without giving any information, returned the communication, requesting that the names of the quartermasters by whom Joseph K. Boone was employed, and the dates of his service under each, be definitely stated. Upon receipt of this commurication the same was called to the at-tention of the claimant, who, on August 12, 1890, replying thereto, said: 'I state that I was not at any time during the war attached to any branch of the quartermaster's department. My service was all the time under the direction of and connected with general officers in command in central Missouri, commanders of regiments and posts. And my duties were that of scout, guide for troops and bearer of dispatches, and what little compensation I received was paid me by such officers as employed

"The claimant having been employed by various officers of the army in the capacity of guide and scout merely, is not in cluded within any of the classes of person mentioned in the pension laws as benefic iarles thereunder. The claim is therefore rejected."

WILL SETTLE HANNA'S FATE

Caucus of Republican Legislators on Saturday Night.

Rumor That the Cincinnati Delegation Will Support Gen, Jeptha Girard for Senator.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. COLUMBUS, Ohio, December 30 .- Charles

L. Kurtz has drafted into service in the fight against Senator Hanna his force of deputy oil inspectors from all over the state. With the well-known Foraker republicans of the state, these men are here working in the anti-Hanna organization. On the whole, the organization makes quite a formidable appearance. While Col. Dick maintains that there is

19 cause for alarm on the part of the Hanna managers, he admits that the fight against Senator Hanna is an earnest one. Ex-Representative A. C. Thompson arrived from Washington last night to work with Col. Dick in the interest of Senator Hanna. At the Hanna headquarters this morning it is announced that Senator Shepard of Prebl: and Representative Smith of Dela-Prebl; and Representative Smith of Delaware, two republican members that the anti-Hanna members' managers claimed, had pledged themselves to vote for Hanna. The fight is evidently to be made in the organization of the two branches. The republican caucus will be held next Saturday night. The strength of the Kurtz organization will then be developed. If the Hanna slate for that organization can be imperiled by absenteeism it will show that Kurtz's organization is strong and firm. The plan of the anti-Hanna managers in regard to this, is to remain away from the regard to this, is to remain away from the organization caucus. They will in this way not bind themselves to support the caucus nominees, and will join with the democrats in fixing up a slate which will divide the In fixing up a slate which will divide the offices between their friends and democrats. This being done the anti-Hanna members and the democratic minority will be ready to unite in the more serious matter of electing a United States senator.

A special from Cincinnati announces that the ten representatives from Hamilton county will vote for Gen. Jeptha Girard of that city a silver republican for United States senator. The story is not believed here.

ARMY AND NAVY.

Commodore Howell to Succeed Admiral Selfridge on European Station. Rear Admiral Thos. O. Selfridge has been letached from command of the European station and ordered home to wait orders. He will be retired February 6, 1898.

Commodore J. A. Howell has been detached from duty as commandant at the League Island navy yard and ordered to ommand the European station. Capt. S. Casey has been ordered to be commandant at the League Island navy

Lieut. J. J. Knapp has been ordered to the San Francisco.
Lieut. R. L. Russell has been detached from the San Francisco and granted three months' leave.
Lieut. J. J. Hunker has been detached from the San Francisco and granted two

from the San Francisco and States months' leave,
Ensign A. H. Scales has had his unexpired leave revoked, and been ordered to
the branch hydrographic office at Cleve-Passed Assistant Engineer J. S. McKean

been ordered to the Norfolk navy yard.

The resignation of Capt. John Baxter, jr., assistant quartermaster, of his commission as first lieutenant, 5th Infantry only, has been accepted. Sergeant Benjamin Blue, Company C. Battalion of Engineers, Willet's Point, N. Y., has been retired upon his own appli

GOVERNMENT OF ALASKA.

cation.

Congressional Committees Preparing the Way for Legislation. The Senate and House committees public lands and on territories are at work on legislation for Alaska, preparing the way for action by the two houses. The matter has been talked over in committees. and there will be some decisive action shortly after the holiday recess. The chief problem is to provide for a better gov-

ernment. Secretary Bliss recommended in his anrual report that Alaska be made a regular organized territory. The sentiment of the committee is that the time is not yet ripe, that the population, practically dependent on the rich mining strikes, is a roving one, and that even towns having a large population today may be abandoned to-morrow. It is probable that there will be some enlargement of its present government as preferable to a general system of local legislation and territorial organi zation. The jurisdiction of federal officials there may be extended and their number increased. This is to be a temporary bridging over of the problem until the transitory feature of the population is

largely eliminated. to the extension, in toto, of the gen eral land laws, the sentiment now is that the Lacey bill, providing for this, is too sweep. The right of way act for rail-ways, &c., carried by the Lacey bill is likely to be modified, while there will be some special legislation for the protection of timber. The homestead laws will be extended. Mineral and town site laws at ready are in force. A prime difficulty is the absence of surveys, and it is said that in all probability there are some portions of Alaska that never will be surveyed. This interferes with the operation of the pub-

MANY POINTS AGREED ON

Adjournment of the International Union at Brussels.

A dispatch received at the State Department from Minister Storer at Brussels reports the adjournment December 15 of the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property. The union, which had been in session for some time, was composed of representatives from most of the European countries, the United States and Brazil. There was a general discussion on the subject of patents, trade marks and other matters pertaining to the protection of industrial property. The union reached an agreement on a number of recommendations that had been submitted. As to others, some of the delegates felt they were that had been submitted. As to without power to act, and negotiation garding them will be conducted between the governments interested. The next meeting probably will be held in Washing-

DISMISSALS TO BE RECORDED.

The Civil Service Commission to Adopt a New System. The civil service commission has decided

to institute a new system of bookkeeping in connection with appointments under it. Heretofore the commission has kept a record of appointments by states, thus apportioning the appointments so as to prevent some states getting more than they were entitled to. No record, however, has been kept of the discharges, resignations and transfers. Owing to dismissals, &c. Rifant Bey Goes to Athens.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 30.—Rifant Bey, formerly at Washington, has been appointed Turkish minister at Athens.

THE SYSTEM OPPOSED

Commissioner Evans Wants Pension Attorneys Abolished.

CONSIDERING A BILL TO THAT END

Would Be Fewer Frauds and Considerable Saving.

HIS VIEWS IN DETAIL

The commissioner of pensions has under consideration a bill designed to abolish pension attorneys and to substitute government attorneys, to prosecute pension

In recent interviews the commissioner has scored pension attorneys for the very questionable methods adopted by many of them in obtaining pensions for old soldiers. His utterances in this connection have been the subject of attacks from different sources, and an ex-commissioner of pensions has lately seen fit to score him.

Commissioner Evans when asked by a reporter of The Star this afternoon what he had to say regarding the attack, said: "Why, I have not even read it. I have been informed, however, by some of my friends that there is nothing in it and so there is nothing for me to answer. I have never condemned all the pension attorneys, In their ranks I have many good friends, men above suspicion and of the nighest in-tegrity. But there are a great ranky attorneys who literally stop at nothing to get a pension.

The System Wrong. "The system is all wrong. Years ago the

government should have taken this subject in hand and dealt directly with the pensioners and not through attorneys. Senator Pritchard expresses the situation very forcibly in a recent interview, when he admitted that there was considerable skull-duggery in this pension attorney business, and expressed the belief that the government would do better by dealing directly with the veteran and not through attorneys. Look at the advantages of such an grangement.
"First of all, under the supervision of the

government the liability to frauds would be reduced to a minimum. We would have direct control of the attorneys, whose business it would be to see that all honest claims were promptly and intelligently presented. If one of these attorneys failed to do his duty or was found incompetent it would be an easy matter to remove him.

Then it would be a great saving to the government. Why, just think of it, \$13,-500,000 has been paid out in the past thirteen years to pension attorneys. This enormous sum has been taken from the poor pensioner. This present system is wrong. It is unsatisfactory to the old pen-sioners. How? Well, first of all they do not relish having part of their pension withheld and paid over to an attorney. ing from practically the same disabilities receive different pensions. One receives, say, \$6 a month, while a friend of his for the same causes obtains \$12. Here Then there are cases where soldiers suffersame causes obtains \$12. How does it appen? Sharp and unprincipled attorneys and incompetent medical examiners. There's the secret. This is a fraud, but

how are you going to reach it? A Sample Case.

"Here comes an old soldier for examination for ircrease. He is already pensioned for one disability, and now pleads for an increase on the ground that he is deaf. The and, sure enough, the regular experiments for perfect hearing show a deficiency. There is nothing to do but certify to the additional disability. I remember a good illustration of how an increase was worked through an attorney who was endowed with little conscience. The client was drawing a pension for some slight disability—I forget exactly what it was—and applied for an increase. His attorney asked him a great many questions, in the hope of find-ing some excuse for basing a claim, and finally learned that the applicant at times suffered from diarrhoea. His advice to the soldier was to make the application through him in the weekly him in the usual way and wait for an attack before presenting himself for exam-

"Then there are cases where the old soldier is illiterate, and a shrewd attorney prepares almost any kind of an affidavit wants and directs the soldier to sign it. He does it, many times unconscious of what it contains. These are only a few illustra-tions of the sharp practices the department unearths every day. To have the system entirely under governmental con-trol would break up such things, and re-dound to the good of the government and the advantages of the old soldier."

Swelling the Rolls.

The New York Herald says today regarding the swollen pension rolls:

There have been many and varied reasons for the extravagant growth of pension expenditure. The most prominent one, of course, is to be found in the efforts of politicians to pander to the "soldier vote," and this reason is most potent in opposition to any movement to expose the

The question of benefiting the soldiers has had little to do with the increased pension lists made under statutes passed since 1880. There was an excess of revenue over expenditures in 1880 of \$65,883,653,20, and in 1882 of \$145,543,810.71. There was still an excess of \$85,040,271.97 in 1890, and the politicians saw the necessity of disposing of the surplus. It occurred to various unscrupulous leaders that they could increase their political power by giving the surplus to the soldiers. The pension act of 1890, consequently, not only disposed of the surplus, but the receipts of the government have not equaled the expenditures since

The pension mill continues to grind under this law. For the first half of the present fiscal year, ending this month, the pension expenditures amount in round numbers to \$76,500,000. If this rate is kept up the total for the year will be \$153,000,000—about \$11,-0000,000 more than last year.

It has been urgently asserted that these

commissions accomplished nothing, and the

cry of fraud raised in 1893 was without any

Might Save Eighteen Millions.

1891.

result. There was a steady increase in the amount paid for pensions from 1864 to 1893, when it amounted to \$159,357,557.87. Then when it amounted to \$109,337,357,87. Then came the cry of fraud and the investigation which resulted in the pension roll being decreased to \$141,177,284.96. If the proposed investigation would do no more than the last, the saving of \$18,000,000 would fully justify the publication of the list. Congressional influence has not only been Congressional influence has not only been exerted to prevent the discovery of frauds, but it probably has often helped undeserving applicants. There are several representatives who devote their whole time while in Washington to procuring pensions. They go to the pension office with their clerks at 9 a.m. and stay until 4 p.m., urging clerks to pass upon cases, or, if the clerks find objection, persuading the commissioner to issue orders for pensions. While these are perhaps exceptional cases,

George &. King Dead. Geo. E. King, author of numerous religious works, is dead. He was born in New Ips-

While these are perhaps exception probably every representative and senator who has old soldiers in his district occasicnally brings pressure to bear. SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., December 30 .-

wich, N. H., eighty-six years ago, and was at one time a patent lawyer and capitalist in New York.